



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

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603/225-1552

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS:

ROXBURY, MASS. MAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL WEAPONS CHARGE

Re: United States v. Mark Lattin

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and William Hoover, Special Agent in Charge of the Boston Field Division of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"), announced that Mark Lattin, 19, of Roxbury, MA., was sentenced on August 16, 2004 of federal weapons possession charges.

On April 22, 2004, LATTIN entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Paul J. Barbadoro to an information charging him with being a drug user in possession of a firearms on September 17, 2003, in Portsmouth, N.H. Federal law prohibits drug users from possession firearms.

At today's sentencing, Judge Barbadoro imposed a sentence of 37 months (3 years, 1 month) imprisonment followed by a 3-year period of supervised release during which LATTIN's behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation.

According to an affidavit submitted in support of a Criminal Complaint against LATTIN issued by U.S. Magistrate Judge James Muirhead, LATTIN was arrested by ATF agents on September 17, 2004, after he provided a quantity of marijuana to another party in exchange for three firearms: a Mossberg short-barreled shotgun, and two Davis Industries .380 caliber handguns.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "This case exemplifies this Office's commitment to aggressive prosecution of the federal firearms laws as mandated by Attorney General Ashcroft's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" initiative. Keeping firearms out of the hands of drug traffickers and unlawful drug users is one of our main objectives. This office will continue to vigorously enforce the federal firearms laws as we expand the implementation of Project Safe Neighborhoods in the District of New Hampshire."

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Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federal program to reduce gun violence in New Hampshire by aggressive investigation and prosecution of firearm offenders, education of the public and training of law enforcement officers about firearms laws. Attorney General John Ashcroft recently called Project Safe Neighborhoods “a revolutionary campaign against gun crime in America.”

The prosecution against LATTIN, part of the Department of Justice’s “Project Safe Neighborhoods” (PSN) initiative, resulted from an investigation conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante.

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